

Kentucky Leads the Nation in Developing New ID System

Transportation Cabinet Announces Federal Grant to Begin Important Pilot Project

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently awarded \$3,000,000 to Kentucky for a pilot project related to implementation of the REAL ID Act. REAL ID is a federally mandated program that will eventually replace the Kentucky driver's license. This new ID will also provide access to services in all federally-controlled places, including airports.

Kentucky's pilot project involves integrating hardware, software and information management systems, in an effort to identify the best practices to use in the future implementation of the Real ID Act.

The Transportation Cabinet's Department of Vehicle Regulation will direct the REAL ID project.

"The Department already has processes in place which makes Kentucky's system an excellent fit for the study," said David Jackson, Deputy Commissioner of Vehicle Regulation.

"The document processing and document retention which will be required for REAL ID is quite substantial and very security-oriented," Jackson explained.

"This three million dollar grant will get us off to the early start we'll need to meet federal compliance by the 2008 deadline."

Kentucky is one of only two states to receive a grant for the REAL ID Act Pilot Program.



Transportation Cabinet Poster Contest Encourages School Children to Buckle Up



Get out the crayons and colored pencils! A new poster contest began this month with the purpose of instilling life-saving habits into the lives of Kentucky children. The Cabinet's Traffic Safety Poster Contest, which began on January 19, is designed to increase general traffic safety awareness among children and to help make children aware of the many devastating effects of bad habits, like **not** buckling up.

While the contest is open to all children ages six through seventeen, a particular area of concern is the teen driver category. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths in America. Two-thirds of them were not wearing seat belts.

Entries in the Traffic Safety Poster Contest will be judged in three age groups: 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17. The awards will be announced at the Lifesavers Conference in April.

Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2006 and sent to: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Traffic Safety Program, Division of Operations, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40622. For more information about the contest, visit <http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/>.